PREPARING FOR DEATH

II Kings 20: 1 - 7

INTRODUCTION:

1. Hezekiah, king of Judah, was sick unto death, and Isaiah told him to set his house in order; he was going to die (II Kings 20:1).
2. Hezekiah prayed to God and He extended his life 15 years -- II Kings 20: 6 - 7
3. Today we are all dying and none of us know when it is coming -- I Cor. 15:22; Heb. 9:27; James 4: 13 - 14
4. When one who fears God knows their time is limited, there are some things we all would do:
   (1) We would examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith -- II Cor. 13: 5
   (2) We would examine our personal life -- we would correct anything that might be wrong -- Matt. 5: 23 - 24
   (3) We would make our life more prayerful -- II Kings 20:2; I Thess. 5:17
   (4) We would be more self-sacrificing in the cause of the Lord -- Matt. 6:33
   (5) We would think more about how we could scatter sunshine to those about us.
      1. These are things we all need to do every day.
5. We all need to do what Isaiah told Hezekiah; we all need to set our house in order for death.
6. Let us study some things we all must do to prepare for death.
7. I ask you today, is your house in order -- are you ready to die?

I. WHY PREPARE FOR DEATH?

1. We must die:
   (1) It is appointed unto men once to die -- Heb. 9:27
   (2) In Adam all die -- I Cor. 15:22
   (3) Life is as a vapor -- James 4:14
2. To be ready for the Judgment.
   (1) After death we will all meet God in the Judgment -- Heb. 9: 27; Acts 17:34
   (2) In the judgment we will receive the things done in our body -- II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20: 11 - 15
   (3) In the judgment the Lord will separate the wicked from the righteous -- Matt. 25: 31 - 33
   (4) Christ will send the wicked into Hell -- Matt. 25:41
   (5) The righteous will go into life eternal -- Matt. 25:46
3. To make death a Blessing -- Rev. 14:13; Psa. 116: 15
4. To gain -- Phil. 1:21
5. To have and to leave Hope -- I Thess. 4:13; II Tim. 4:18; II Pet. 1:11; Heb. 6:19

II. HOW TO PREPARE FOR DEATH?

1. By setting one's house in order -- II Kings 20:1
   (1) Set things right with God.
   (2) Set things right with man.
2. By obeying Christ
   (1) Matt. 7:21
   (2) Heb. 5: 8 - 9
   (3) Rev. 22:14
   (4) II Thess. 1: 8 - 9
3. By being in the church of Christ.
   (1) The saved are in the church -- Acts 2:47
   (2) Christ is the saviour of the church -- Eph. 5:23
   (3) How one gets into the church -- I Cor. 12:13
4. By living right.  
   (1) Hezekiah had lived right -- II Kings 20:3  
      1. He walked with God in truth.  
      2. With a perfect heart.  
      3. He had done good.  
   (2) How we are to live -- Tit. 2: 11 - 12  
5. By fighting a good fight -- II Tim. 4:7; Eph. 6:12  
6. By finishing the course -- II Tim. 4: 7,8  
7. By keeping the faith -- II Tim. 4: 7 - 8  
8. Labor to be accepted of God -- II Cor. 5:9  
9. By steadfastness -- I Cor. 15:58; Acts 2:42  
10. By faithfulness -- Rev. 2:10  

III. WHY PREPARE FOR DEATH TODAY?  
1. Because life is described as:  
   (1) A swift runner -- Job 9:25  
   (2) Swift ships -- Job 9:26  
   (3) An eagle swooping down -- Job 9:26  
   (4) A flower -- Job. 14:2  
   (5) Few days -- Job 14:1  
   (6) A shadow -- Job 14:2  
   (7) A vapor -- James 4:14  
   (8) Grass -- I Pet. 1:24  
   (9) A handbreadth -- Psa. 39:5  

IV. WHAT KIND OF JOURNEY IS DEATH?  
1. Death is a one-way journey -- Job 16:22  
2. Death is an unpreventable journey -- Heb. 9: 27; Psa. 90:10  
3. Death is a journey without human companions.  
   (1) The Lord will be with the righteous on that journey -- Psa. 23:4; 116:5; Rev. 14:13; II Cor. 5:8  

V. WHERE ARE THE SPIRITS OR SOULS OF THE DEAD?  
1. In an intermediate state -- Hades -- Luke 16: 19 - 31  
   (1) The lost are in torments -- Luke 16: 23 - 26  
   (2) The saved are in Abraham's bosom or paradise -- Luke 16: 22 - 25; Lk. 23:43; Acts 2: 31  
2. The souls of the dead are not in an unconscious state  

VI. PREPARE FOR DEATH  
1. By obeying Christ -- Rev. 22:14; Heb. 5: 8 - 9  
2. By living right -- Tit. 2: 11 - 12  
3. By fighting a good fight -- II Tim. 4:7; I Tim. 1: 18; Eph. 6:12  
4. By keeping the Faith -- II Tim. 4:7  
5. By finishing the course -- II Tim. 4: 7 - 8  
6. By steadfastness -- I Cor. 15:58  
7. By magnifying Christ -- Phil. 1: 20 - 21  
8. By faithfulness -- Rev. 2:10
CONCLUSION:
1. Friend, is your house in order -- are you ready to die???  II Kings 20:1
2. Where would you go if you died today?

Donald Townsley